

Testimony by Lieutenant Thomas Mrozek, Fairfield Police Department

SB 465

"An Act Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices"

Members of Judicial Committee

March 17, 2014

Good Afternoon. My name is Thomas Mrozek and I am a Lieutenant at Fairfield Police Department. I have been a police officer for the Town of Fairfield for over 30 years. Thank you Co-Chair Colman, Co-Chair Fox and the members of the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 465, An Act Concerning Ignition Interlock Devices. I am asking for your support in proposed changes. During my time serving with Fairfield Police Department I have had many experiences with repeat drunk driving offenders. As a supervisor I continuously hear from my officers "he or she is..." a repeat offender. Just because a person is arrested for driving under the influence or has a driver's license suspension, isn't enough to stop them from driving again and most of the time driving again under the influence. The use of an ignition interlock device stops a drunk driver from endangering both my community and your communities by keeping them off the roadways. I support the use of ignition interlock devices for every arrest of driving under the influence; it stops offender from operating a vehicle and supports re-educating a person on their limits of drinking and the safe operation of a vehicle. Let me give you one short experience I've had while making a drunk driving arrest. No sooner did I remove the accused from their vehicle and placed them safely into my patrol car, when another drunk driver sped past me and struck the accused vehicle, totaling both. The crime of drunk driving and enforcement are dangerous. I support anything that can help stop this preventable crime, including the proposed changes to our current ignition interlock law. Thank you.